

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2519

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 341

STATE PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SY

SUBJ: COMMERCIAL PRESENCE FAIRS FY-75 INTERNATIONAL

FAIR, JULY 25-AUGUST 20, 1974

REF: STATE 11665

1. EMBASSY DAMASCUS ENDEAVORING CLOSE DAMASCUS FAIR ACCOUNTS.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THERE ARE ITEMS STILL OUTSTANDING.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE DO NOT HAVE ESTIMATE OF COSTS IN SOME
OF THESE CATEGORIES.

2. THERE IS DOLLARS 326.89 BILL OUTSTANDING FROM SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT FOR SERVICE CHARGES FOR ISSUING IMPORT PERMITS.
WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH SARG SINCE FAIR CLOSED.
PROBLEM IS NOW BEFORE MINISTER OF ECONOMY WITH RECOMMENDATION
THAT CHARGES SHOULD NOT BE LEVIED. WE EXPECT DECISION BY
NEXT WEEK.

3. AT CLOSE OF FAIR, PAVILION DIRECTOR BILLED VARIOUS
PARTICIPANTS FOR CUSTOMS HANDLING CHARGES INCURRED WHEN
INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITS ARRIVED IN SYRIA. TO DATE, SEVERAL OF
THESE REMAIN UNPAID, AND MOST OF THOSE ARE IN DISPUTE.
SLOWLY, ONE BY ONE, WE ARE GETTING THEM RESOLVED. AS FAR AS
SYRIAN BROKER IS CONCERNED USG INCURRED BILL AS CONTRACT
WITH CUSTOMS BROKER SIGNED BY PAVILION MANAGER AND WE WILL
BE RESPONSIBLE IF WE UNABLE TO GET PARTICIPANTS TO PAY. WE
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JUST CAN NOT GIVE YOU FIGURE ON WHAT THIS AMOUNT WILL COME TO,

BUT WE HOPEFUL IT WILL BE ZERO.

4. ALI JOHAR WAS GUARDINJURED IN BOMB EXPLOSION AT PAVILION. COMPLETED FORMS FORWARDED THIS WEEK TO TYRELL BY POUCH. WHILE ALL MEDICAL EXPENSE INCLUDING EAR OPERATION INCURRED THUS FAR HAVE ALREADY BEEN PAID BY EMBASSY OUT OF FAIR ACCOUNT, THERE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION. WE ENDEAVORING DETERMINE WHAT AMOUNT EQUITABLE IN SYRIA AND WE WILL ADVISE. OUR QUESTION: DOES THIS COMPENSATION COME FROM FAIR ACCOUNT? IF SO, IT IS ADDITIONAL POSSIBLE CLAIM AGAINST FUNDS AND WE CAN NOT NOW GIVE YOU FIGURE ON WHAT THAT WILL BE.

5. FOURTH UNFINISHED ITEM IS PHONE BILL FROM PAVILION, ALREADY OBLIGATED IS ABOUT DOLLARS 270 DEPOSIT BUT WE EXPECT BILL TO EXCEED THIS. PHONE BILLINGS RUN 8 TO 10 MONTHS LATE. THERE NO POSSIBLE WAY TO GET EARLY ACCOUNTING.

6. IN SUMMARY, WE WILL CONTINUE IN DAYS AHEAD TO MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT TO CLOSE ACCOUNT. ANY INFORMATION YOU CAN GIVE US ON ITEMS ABOVE WILL BE HELPFUL. IN ADDITION, WE WILL BE SENDING IN SEVERAL CABLES ON SPECIFIC BILLS WHICH WERE SENT VARIOUSS PARTICIPANTS IN HOPES PAVILION MANAGER TYRELL CAN GIVE US GUIDANCE.
MURPHY

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